

Irish faith healer at work in York Region

BY LAURIE WATT
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For those patients doctors call incurable, Danny Gallagher offers hope as he touches the blind and crippled with hands he says have a God-given power to heal.

The Irish faith healer visiting York Region this month, at the invitation of families in Kleinberg and Tottenham, describes his relationship with medical science as complementary rather than competitive and his technique supernatural, not scientific.

"Our Lord was the first healer and greatest healer of all," Gallagher, 34, told The Era-Banner. "He didn't heal everyone. I've had many miraculous cures, but not everyone is healed. It's the will of God that decides who will be healed."

Gallagher, who is the seventh son of a seventh son, who Celtic legend says has the power to heal, said he discovered he could heal the sick in a dream he had when he was eight years old. In the vision, God told him to lay his hands on a sick person three times.

"I can't explain (the significance of the three times)," said Gallagher, a native of County Derry in Northern Ireland. "I believe it could have something to do with the Holy Trinity."

The Irishman said he blesses a small crucifix, then lays it and his hands on the sick person. For example, last summer he laid his hands

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on 25-year-old Phillip Armstrong who was covered in blisters.

"All his life he was covered in bandages which had to be changed three times a day. After he came to me, the wounds healed up and he doesn't need any form of treatment," Gallagher said. To prove Armstrong, from Tempo in Northern Ireland, was healed Gallagher presents a Belfast dermatologist's letter testifying to the drastic change in Armstrong's health.

Another feat, which made headlines in England's News of the World last year, occurred when a woman Gallagher blessed regained her vision. He carries her walking stick as a testimony to her recovery.

Gallagher doesn't charge for his services, but does accept donations.

Since he arrived two weeks ago, Gallagher has been meeting and blessing cripples and those afflicted with seizures or cancer or skin disorders.

For Jessica Millar, 8, of Kettleby, her frequent, severe seizures have



IRISH FAITH healer Danny Gallagher, left, and his assistant Karan Rohleder, 26, point out one case where

Gallagher's gift healed a blind woman.

Photo: LAURIE WATT

stopped since she saw Gallagher a week ago, her grandmother, Peggy O'Neil said. O'Neil described what has happened as "a miracle".

"We have faith to believe in his (Gallagher's) laying on of hands that God leads us and guides us to the right way of life. You have to work towards health. Some people have miracles, but with others, health is progressive."

O'Neil could not say whether her granddaughter is totally cured, just that her condition has improved.

O'Neil also said Gallagher touched a mole on her arm which fell off the next day and healed. She had the mole for years and it had recently

been causing her problems.

Doctors have tried to help Jessica since she first started having seizures at 16 months, O'Neil added. Gallagher emphasized his relationship with the medical profession is complementary, adding he would not criticize a doctor.

"I strongly advise people who come to me to consult a doctor first. When everything else has failed, that's when I try to help," he explained.

Aurora's Frank Buck, who is publicizing Gallagher's mission in Canada, said he is not sure whether Gallagher is a miracle-worker. But he did say Gallagher helps the sick believe they will get better and then they will "leave no stones unturned in trying to help themselves", which is a valuable service in itself.

Buck added he has not seen any cases of cancer cured yet.

"I'm not religious, but I can't deny his successes," Buck added. "Anything is possible."

Gallagher has not decided how long he will stay in Canada, although next week he will hold three public sessions —